Should he make me Live like Diana's priest, betwixt cold sheets [9] ; Whiles he is vaulting variable ramps, In your despite, upon your purse ? Revenge it, I dedicate myself to your sweet pleasure ; More noble than that runagate to your bed ; And will continue fast to your affection, Still close, as sure.

IMO. What ho, Pisanio !

LICH. Let me my service tender on your lips \ *IMO.* Away ! — I do condemn mine ears, that have So long attended thee. — If thou wert honourable, Thou would'st have told this tale for virtue, not For such an end thou seek'st ; as base, as strange, Thou wrong'st a gentleman, who is as far From thy report, as thou from honour ; and Solicit* st here a lady, that disdains Thee and the devil alike. — What ho, Pisanio ! — • The king my father shall be made acquainted Of thy assault : if he shall think it fit, A saucy stranger, in his court, to mart As in a Romish stew [2], and to expound

9 Live like Diana's PKIEST, betwixt cold sheets ;] Sir Thomas Hanmer, supposing this to be an inaccurate expression, reads :

[ie] Live like Diana's *priestess 'ttuixt* cold sheets; " but the text is as the author wrote it. So, in Pericles, Prince of Tyre, Diana says :

" My temple stands at Ephesus; hie thee thither ; [if] There, when my maiden *priests* are met together," &c.

MALONE.

[1] Let me my service tender on your lips.] Perhaps this is an {illusion to the ancient custom of swearing servants into noble fa-Dailies. So, in Caltha Poetarum^ &c. 1599 :

" — she *swears* him to his good abearing, *" Whilst her faire sweet *lips* were the books of swearing/*

STEEVENS.

[a] As in a ROMISH stew,] *Romish* was, in the time of Shak-speare, used instead of *Roman.* There were stews at Rome in the time of Augustus, The same phrase occurs in Claudius Tiberius Nero, 1607 «